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(Kögel 58, 11; 59, 19; 82, 39; 87, 17; 107, 29; 187, 1; 353, 10; 16, 39; 71, 10; 381, 22), *besatzte* (220, 9), *entsatzte* (19, 29), *ersatzte* (83, 7), *hinsatzte* (512, 2), *fürsatzte* (286, 25), *versatzte* (71, 22), *vorsatzte* (73, 13). Wenn wir nun aber diese Stellen, die ich an der Hand von R. Müller: *Die Sprache in Grimmelshausens Simplicissimus*, Eisenberg 1897, zitiere, im *SS 1669* nachschlagen, so zeigt es sich, daß ohne jede Ausnahme diese rückumlautenden Formen auf nachträglicher Korrektur beruhen: Grimmelshausen selbst schrieb *setzte*, resp. mit der für ihn so bezeichnenden Apokope *setzt*, *besetzt(e)*, *entsetzt(e)*, *ersetzt(e)*, *hinsetzt(e)*, *fürsetzt(e)*, *versetzt(e)*, *vorsetzt(e)*, und die rückumlautenden Formen sind dem Nürnberger Korrektor zuzuschreiben. So bleibt von dem Hinweis auf Grimmelshausens Heimat nichts übrig und muß die ganze Konstatierung umgewendet werden. Es ist überhaupt in Zukunft nicht mehr zulässig, die überarbeitete *Simplicissimus*-Ausgabe, wie es in Wörterbüchern und sprachlichen Untersuchungen so oft geschieht, als Zeugnis für Grimmelshausens Sprache anzuführen. Ich möchte daher der dahinzielenden Schlußbemerkung Törnvals, "daß es methodisch nicht gerechtfertigt sei, die Ausgabe 1669 A als für die Sprache und die literarische Stellung des Verfassers charakteristisch anzuführen," eine möglichst allgemeine Verbreitung wünschen. Wer künftighin den *Simplicissimus* zitiert, benutze für sprachliche Zwecke ausschließlich die Ausgabe Kellers, den nicht-überarbeiteten Text aus dem Jahre 1669.

[Schluss folgt.]

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## TWO LETTERS WRITTEN BY RACINE TO HIS SISTER

In January, 1918, I called attention<sup>1</sup> to four of Racine's letters privately owned in England and mentioned by the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts.<sup>2</sup> Three months later these letters were sold at Sotheby's by the widow of Alfred Morrison. The catalogue that announced the sale reproduced the text of the letters, wholly or in part, thus adding materially to the scant information furnished by the Royal Commission. It now appears

<sup>1</sup> *M. L. N.*, vol. xxxiii, pp. 30-33.

<sup>2</sup> *Ninth Report*, Part II, p. 462, London, 1883.

that of these four letters the one<sup>3</sup> that was written "au Camp deuant Mons" is dated April 3rd, 1691, not April 30th as stated in the *Report*. The text given in Sotheby's catalogue shows that it is the same as that of a letter preserved, according to Mesnard, at the Bibliothèque Nationale and published by him in the *Grands Écrivains* edition of Racine.<sup>4</sup> Its identification from the *Report* was impossible, as the text was not given there and the date was incorrectly stated. This letter was sold to Maggs Brothers for £54. The letter<sup>5</sup> written at Le Quesnoy, May 16, 1692, reproduced in the *Report* and in my article, was sold to Agnew and Sons for £44. The two remaining letters, addressed by Racine to his sister, were purchased for £36 each by a Parisian dealer in autographs, Charavay, and were in turn sold by him to an inhabitant of Toulouse. Learning last July the name of the purchaser, I wrote to him for further information about the letters, but have received no reply. As he has given no evidence of an intention to publish the two letters, I have decided to reproduce them here in the incomplete form in which they appear in Sotheby's catalogue.

"976. 13¼ pp. 8<sup>vo</sup>, 'A Versailles, ce 22 Fevrier' (1685?) to his sister, Marie Racine:

"'Je suis inconsolable, ma chère sœur, de ce que viens [*sic*] de voir chez Monsieur le Controlleur Général. J'ay veu que Monsieur Rivière estoit supprimé. Je n'ay appris qu'aujourd'hui que ces choses-là ne se régloient pas chez Monsieur comme Monsieur de Boisfranc me l'avoit dit. Cela a esté cause que je n'ay pas fait un pas pour vous. Vous auriez bien dû me mander que tous vos gens faisoient des diligences auprès de Monsieur l'Intendant. Moy, qui suis accablé d'affaires, je n'ay pas seulement soupçonné que cela dust est [*sic*] réglé chez Monsieur le Controlleur Général, où je n'avois qu'un mot à dire' etc.

"977. 2 pp. 4<sup>to</sup>, 'A Paris, ce jour des cendres' (1685), to the same:

"'Je vous prie, ma chère sœur, de faire bien mes excuses à mon Oncle Racine et à Monsieur Regnaud de ce que je ne leur escriis point. Je suis si accablé d'affaires que je ne sçay où me tourner. Dites-leur bien que je les remercie de tout mon cœur de la part

<sup>3</sup> Numbered by Sotheby, 978.

<sup>4</sup> Vol. VII, p. 15.

<sup>5</sup> Numbered by Sotheby 979.

qu'ils ont prise à vostre affaire. Assurez mon Oncle que j'en conserveray la mémoire toute ma vie. Comme en effet on ne peut m'escire là-dessus plus obligeamment qu'il a [*sic*] fait. [*sic*] Je me suis ravisé en vous escrivant, et j'ay résolu d'escire à Monsieur Regnaud deux ou trois lignes de remerciement.' ”

By comparing these letters with others, published by Mesnard, I have been able to determine the fact that the affair in question is undoubtedly the loss by Racine's brother-in-law, Rivière, of his position in the salt-office of La Ferté-Milon.<sup>6</sup> As the French financial administration was then organized, the nation's supply of salt was placed in 154 *greniers*, and distributed from each of these to retail merchants by a board consisting of a *président*, a *contrôleur*, a *grenetier*, a *procureur du roi*, and a *receveur*. After 1663 the distribution was made under the supervision of the intendant for the district. In questions of reinstatement final authority rested with the king and his representative, the *contrôleur général*, but the intendant of the district had the power to recommend action with regard to a local official. Before these letters were written Rivière held the positions of *grenetier* and *contrôleur alternatif* in Racine's native town, La Ferté-Milon.<sup>7</sup> Claude Racine and François Regnaud, mentioned in the second letter, were, respectively, *contrôleur* and *procureur du roi* at the same place.<sup>8</sup> After Colbert's death in 1683 the *contrôleur général* was Le Pelletier. The intendant for the district of Soissons, in which lay La Ferté-Milon, was from 1682 to 1685 Roland Le Vayer, sieur de Boutigny.<sup>9</sup>

The year in which these letters were written may be determined by comparing them with another letter written by Racine to his sister, dated Feb. 27 and published by Mesnard.<sup>10</sup> Racine there speaks in detail of the effort he has been making to reinstate

<sup>6</sup> Charles Godard, *les Pouvoirs des intendants sous Louis XIV*, Paris, Librairie de la société du recueil général des lois & des arrêts, 1901, pp. 266, 273.

<sup>7</sup> Mesnard, *op. cit.*, vol. VI, p. 529.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 528, 529.

<sup>9</sup> Godard, *op. cit.*, p. 539. A certain community of taste between him and Racine might be established, if he can be proved to have been related to François Le Voyer sieur de Boutigny, who was not only *maître des requêtes*, but author of a tragedy published in 1643, *le grand Selim ou le Couronnement tragique*. Cf. *la Bibliothèque du théâtre françois*, Dresden, 1768, vol. III, p. 20.

<sup>10</sup> *Op. cit.*, vol. VI, pp. 527-529.

Rivière, refers to Regnaud and his uncle Racine, reports the receipt that same morning of a letter from the intendant regretting that he had not learned sooner of the relationship existing between Racine and Rivière. This letter must have been written about the same time as were the two I am publishing,<sup>11</sup> after the first, which was written when Racine had just learned of his brother-in-law's removal, and before the second, in which the affair seems almost ended and the poet has reached the point of thanking Regnaud and his uncle for their services. Now Mesnard shows that this letter could not have been written earlier than 1678, as Racine was established at court only in 1677, nor later than 1686, since mention is made in it of Antoine Vitart, who died in 1687 and was already seriously ill in January of that year. Of the nine years remaining he selects 1685 because Racine speaks of having to wait till his mourning garments are ready before he can visit the *contrôleur général*. This would seem to refer to court mourning, the only example of which mentioned in the *Gazette* during those nine years is the mourning worn for Charles II from February to May, 1685.

Support of this conclusion can be found by appealing to the calendar. The three letters are dated Feb. 22nd, Feb. 27th, and Ash Wednesday. As I have just shown that the third of these letters was written last, they must have been composed in a year in which Ash Wednesday came after Feb. 27. But from 1678 to 1686 this happened only in the years 1680, 1683, and 1685, when Ash Wednesday fell on March 6th, 3rd, and 7th, respectively.<sup>12</sup> Hence 1685 may not only be allowed to stand, but it is one of only three possible years in which the letters could have been written.

Further evidence lies in the fact that at the end of 1684 there was a general reduction of officials in the salt office and that by an edict of January, 1685, their positions were handed over to local

<sup>11</sup> As Rivière lost his place again in 1697, the question might be asked whether the two letters refer to that occasion, but the second letter cannot, for it mentions Regnaud, who died in 1694 (cf. Mesnard, *op. cit.*, vol. VI, p. 519). It is also unlikely that the first refers to it, for a letter of May 24, 1697 (*ibid.*, vol. VII, pp. 172-174), speaks of the affair as if it had recently occurred, so that a letter dated Feb. 22 could hardly be concerned with it.

<sup>12</sup> Cf. F. K. Ginzel, *Handbuch der Mathematischen und Technischen Chronologie*, Leipzig, 1914, vol. III, p. 417.

collectors, known as *élus*.<sup>13</sup> It is probable that Rivière lost his position as a result of this reduction in the number of officials. The letters published show the part Racine played in the effort to restore him to his post.

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### LAWRENCE MINOT

In regard to the author of the political poems contained in ms. Cotton Galba E ix, we have no other information than that which is afforded by the poems themselves. We know that his name was Lawrence Minot,<sup>1</sup> and that his poetical activity is connected with events between 1333 and 1352.<sup>2</sup> The surname Minot is not a common one, and of the six or seven fourteenth century Minots of whom Hall found traces in the public records,<sup>3</sup> none bears the name of Lawrence. That the Lawrence Minot who is named in the documents printed below was the author of the poems in ms. Cotton Galba E ix, is probably impossible either to prove or disprove. But inasmuch as these documents constitute (to the best of my knowledge) the only record that has been found of a Lawrence Minot who was contemporary with the author of the poems, it seems worth while to make them known. They belong to the year 1331 and con-

<sup>13</sup> Godard, *op. cit.*, p. 275. That they were not all so treated is shown by letters of Le Vayer of February 18 and March 7, 1685, in which he refers to the "réunion d'une partie des greniers à sel aux élections." Cf. de Boislisle, *Correspondance des Contrôleurs généraux*, Paris, Imprimerie Nationale, 1874, vol. I, p. 43.

The lines in which the poet gives his name are:

Minot with mowth had menid to make (v, 1)

and

Now Laurence Minot will begin (vii, 20)

<sup>2</sup> See Hall, *Poems of Laurence Minot* (Oxford, third edition, 1914), p. xii and his notes to the various poems. The second poem deals with the battle of Bannockburn (1314), but it appears to have been written after the first, which deals with the battle of Halidon Hill (1333); see Hall's notes.

<sup>3</sup> Hall, pp. x ff.